



At Press Time:

AP VoteCast: Economy ranked as a top issue, but concerns over democracy drove many voters to polls

By J. BOAK/L. SANDERS
Associated Press


WASHINGTON (AP) — Voters said the economy and immigration are the top issues facing the country, but the future of democracy was also a leading motivator for many Americans casting a ballot in Tuesday's presidential election. AP VoteCast, an expansive survey of more than 110,000 voters nationwide, found a country mired in negativity and desperate for change as Americans faced a stark choice between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris. Trump, the Republican, sought to define the election as a referendum on the Biden-Harris administration and blamed it for inflation and illegal crossings at the U.S. border with Mexico. Harris, the Democrat, tried to brand herself as being more focused on the future and described Trump as old, tired and a threat to the Constitution.



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Voters wait in line to cast their ballots outside a polling station on the Navajo Nation in Chinle, Ariz., on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024.

Associated Press




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AP VoteCast: Economy ranked as a top issue, but concerns over democracy drove many voters to polls

Continued from Front

About 4 in 10 voters considered the economy and jobs to be the most important problem facing the country, as frustration with inflation spiking in 2022 lingered in the form of higher grocery, housing and gasoline costs. Roughly 2 in 10 voters said the top issue is immigration, and about 1 in 10 picked abortion.

But when asked what most influenced their vote, about half of voters identified the future of democracy as the single most important factor. That was higher than the share who answered the same way about inflation, the situation at the U.S.-Mexico border, abortion policy or free speech. Those issues also outweighed considerations of recent assassination attempts against Trump or the legal cases he is facing, as well as the possibility of Harris becoming the first female president.

Trump holds an edge on economy, Harris leads on abortion

Trump held an advantage over Harris on which candidate could better handle the economy, as well as on the issue of immigration. On abortion, Harris was seen as the stronger candidate. During the campaign, Harris talked about access to abortion and medical care for women as an issue of fundamental freedom, whereas Trump said it was a matter best left to the states after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022.

Trump said tariffs on rivals and allies alike — as well as greater oil production —



Voters cast their ballots at the Bronx County Supreme Court in New York on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

would pump up the economy, while Harris said his tariffs would worsen inflation. She maintained that tax breaks for parents and assistance for new homebuyers as well as start-up company founders would be more helpful.

On the question of who would better handle taxes, AP VoteCast found the two polled relatively even.

Voters see the need for change

What unified the country was a sense that the status quo hasn't been working. About 8 in 10 voters want at least "substantial change" in how the country is run, including about one-quarter who said they want complete and total upheaval. But what that change would look like is a source of dissent and division.

Harris and Trump have offered clashing ideas on what America needs — all of which was reflected in

an unprecedented campaign season. Harris has the unique status of being a woman of color who emerged as candidate only in July, when Biden exited the race following concerns about his age. The 78-year-old Trump, by contrast, faced two assassination attempts and was convicted of multiple felonies regarding his business dealings.

About 7 in 10 voters said the country was on the wrong track, with Trump promising a return to his time in the White House as the fix and Harris saying her policies were geared toward the future.

Voters are frustrated with the economy

About 6 in 10 described the economy as not so good or poor, similar to four years ago when the economy was staying afloat due to trillions of dollars in government aid provided during

the pandemic. But as the country came out of the pandemic, inflation began to climb because of supply shortages and higher consumer demand aided by additional government relief. Ultimately, in 2022, higher food and energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

About two-thirds of voters said they were very concerned about the cost of food and groceries. About half had concerns of health care, housing costs and gasoline prices.

Almost 6 in 10 voters said their personal finances were holding steady. But about 3 in 10 described themselves as "falling behind," a higher share than in 2020. Some doubts about Harris and fears about Trump as an authoritarian. Still, both candidates' experiences raised some sharp questions from voters about whether they should

be in the White House.

Harris' time as Biden's vice president and quick ascendance to the Democratic nomination left about one-quarter of voters seeing her as untested — a characterization that Trump doesn't face so substantially after having been commander-in-chief from 2017 to 2021.

But Trump has also deployed fiery rhetoric about going after his perceived enemies, a threat that carried weight with many voters after his refusal to accept his 2020 loss contributed to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection on the U.S. Capitol.

Nearly 6 in 10 are very or somewhat concerned that another Trump term would bring the U.S. closer to being an authoritarian country, where a single leader has unchecked power. Slightly fewer than half say the same about Harris. □

Elon Musk's \$1 million-a-day voter sweepstakes can proceed, a Pennsylvania judge says

By MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The \$1 million-a-day voter sweepstakes that Elon Musk's political action committee is hosting in swing states can continue through Tuesday's presidential election, a Pennsylvania judge ruled Monday. Common Pleas Court Judge Angelo Foglietta — ruling after Musk's lawyers said the winners are paid spokespeople and not chosen by chance — did not immediately explain his reasoning. District Attorney Larry Krasner, a Democrat, had called the process a scam "designed to actually influence a national election" and asked that it be shut down.

Musk lawyer Chris Gober said the final two recipients before Tuesday's presidential election will be in Arizona on Monday and Michigan on Tuesday.

"The \$1 million recipients are not chosen by chance," Gober said Monday. "We know exactly who will be announced as the \$1 million recipient today and tomorrow."

Chris Young, the director and treasurer of America PAC, testified that the recipients are vetted ahead of time, to "feel out their personality, (and) make sure they were someone whose values aligned" with the group.

Musk's lawyers, defending the effort, called it "core political speech" given that participants sign a petition endorsing the U.S. Constitution. They also said Krasner's bid to shut it down under Pennsylvania law was moot because there would be no more Pennsylvania winners before the program ends Tuesday.

Krasner believes the giveaways violates state election law and contradict what Musk promised when he announced them during an appearance with Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's campaign in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 19: "We're going to be awarding a million dollars randomly to people who have signed the petition every day from now until the election," Musk vowed.



Associated Press

Young also acknowledged that the PAC made the recipients sign nondisclosure agreements.

"They couldn't really reveal the truth about how they got the money, right?" Krasner lawyer John Summers asked. "Sounds right," Young said.

In an Oct. 20 social media post shown in court, Musk said anyone signing the petition had "a daily chance of winning \$1M!"

Summers grilled him on Musk's use of both the words "chance" and "randomly," prompting Young to concede the latter was not "the word I would have selected." Young said the winners knew they would be called on stage but not specifically that they would win the money.

Musk did not attend the hearing. He has committed more than \$70 million to the super PAC to help Trump and other Republicans win in November.

"This was all a political marketing masquerading as a lottery," Krasner testified Monday. "That's what it is. A grift." Lawyers for Musk and the PAC said they do not plan to extend the lottery beyond Tuesday. Krasner said the first three winners, starting on Oct. 19, came from Pennsylvania in the days leading up to the state's Oct. 21 voter registration deadline.

Other winners came from the battleground states of Wisconsin, Nevada, Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina and Michigan. It's not clear if anyone has yet received the money.

The PAC pledged they would get it by Nov. 30, according to an exhibit shown in court. More than 1 million people

from the seven states have registered for the sweepstakes by signing a petition saying they support the right to free speech and to bear arms, the first two amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Krasner questioned how

the PAC might use their data, which it will have on hand well past the election.

"They were scammed for their information," Krasner said. "It has almost unlimited use." Krasner's team called Musk "the heartbeat of America PAC," and the person announcing the winners and presenting the checks.

"He was the one who presented the checks, albeit large cardboard checks. We don't really know if there are any real checks," Summers said.

Foglietta presided over the case at Philadelphia City Hall after Musk and the PAC lost an effort to move it to federal court.

Krasner has said he could still consider criminal charges, as

he's tasked with protecting both lotteries and the integrity of elections.

Pennsylvania remains a key battleground state with 19 electoral votes and both Trump and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris have repeatedly visited the state, including stops planned Monday in the final hours of the campaign.

Krasner — who noted that he has long driven a Tesla — said he could also seek civil damages for the Pennsylvania registrants. Musk is the CEO and largest shareholder of Tesla. He also owns the social media platform X, where America PAC has published posts on the sweepstakes, and the rocket ship maker SpaceX. □



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Company vows to sue over damages after New Mexico authorities destroy cannabis crops

By **SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN**

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— State police have destroyed tens of thousands of pounds of marijuana plants at greenhouses in northwestern New Mexico, marking what regulators say is the largest seizure and destruction of cannabis in New Mexico since new possession and cultivation laws took effect in 2021.

Authorities announced the operation Monday, saying dozens of agents were assigned to eradicate the plants in October. The state Cannabis Control Division had started the process of revoking the license of NNK Equity LLC, having filed a noncompliance order and a default order earlier this year.

The company was accused of not posting its licenses on site, failing to obtain water rights for cultivation, not having cameras that could monitor certain areas of its operation and violating sanitation and health requirements.

"The organization involved



This undated image provided by the New Mexico State Police shows marijuana plants that were removed from a growing operation in Waterflow, N.M., after the state Cannabis Control Division ordered a company to cease production.

Associated Press

showed a blatant disregard for the laws of this state and we will prove that once this investigation is over," New Mexico State Police Chief Troy Weisler said in a statement.

Jacob Candelaria, an Albuquerque attorney who represents NNK Equity, disputed the state's claims and accused regulators and state police of violating his client's civil rights.

He said the state failed to properly serve notice of its intent to revoke the company's license and subsequently denied a request for a hearing on the merits of the case.

He said clients Irving Lin and Bao Xue speak Mandarin Chinese and have limited ability to understand the written English language. Lin asked for a Chinese translation, but the attorney said regulators did not respond to his request.

The Cannabis Control Division stated in filings related to the case that it complied with notice and hearing requirements and had afforded the company its due process rights.

The company plans to ask a state district judge to set aside the order revoking the license and to order state regulators to hold a hearing, Candelaria said. He added that NNK Equity also plans to sue the state for destroying what he said amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars of private property.

"The idea that law enforcement officers can destroy public property based

upon a temporary restraining order which can be entered without notice to all parties and before a hearing on the evidence which was the case here, should concern all of us who believe in the Constitution."

According to state regulators, NNK Equity was issued a license in December 2023 for a marijuana growing operation at a property in Waterflow, a rural area on the edge of the Navajo Nation and just south of the Colorado border. The region also made headlines earlier this year when state regulators cracked down on two other operations and Navajo Nation authorities ended up filing their own charges against two tribal members.

In the latest case, the Cannabis Control Division conducted a compliance check in June and determined that NNK Equity had exceeded its allotted plant count.

The New Mexico State Police Special Investigations Unit was brought in and later found plants at a second location that was not licensed. □

Man arrested after federal officials say he sought to destroy Nashville power site

By **KIMBERLEE KRUESI**

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

The Department of Justice said Monday that federal agents have arrested a

Tennessee man with ties to white nationalist groups who they say attempted to use what he believed to be an explosive-laden drone to destroy a Nashville en-

ergy facility. According to court documents, Skyler Philippi, 24, is accused of planning to attach several pounds of C-4 explosives to an aerial drone with the intent of destroying an electric substation in Nashville. The newly unsealed court records reveal that Philippi in July allegedly told a confidential source who was working with the FBI that he wanted to attack several substations to "shock the system." That confidential source later introduced Philippi to an undercover FBI employee, who began to collect information about Philippi's plan with other undercover agents. "Philippi researched previous attacks on electric substations and concluded

that attacking with firearms would not be sufficient," wrote Angelo DeFeo, an FBI special agent, in the court records released Monday. "Philippi, therefore, planned to use a drone with explosives attached to it and to fly the drone into the substation." Philippi allegedly told undercover law enforcement officials that he was affiliated with several white nationalist and extremist groups, including the National Alliance, which calls for eradicating the Jewish people and other races. Such extremist groups increasingly have viewed attacking the United States' power grid as a means of disrupting the country.

The U.S. grid includes more

than 6,400 power plants and 450,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines that span the country.

In September, Philippi provided the undercover officials with excerpts of his so-called manifesto, which focused heavily on preserving the white race.

On Saturday, Philippi and undercover employees drove to his intended Nashville launch site and prepared to fly a drone that authorities say Philippi believed had 3 pounds of C-4 attached to it. The material had been provided by the undercover employees, according to court documents. Law enforcement agents arrested Philippi shortly after arriving at the site. □



The Nashville, Tenn., skyline is reflected in the Cumberland River July 11, 2022.

Associated Press

Israel's Netanyahu dismisses defense minister in surprise announcement

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday dismissed his popular defense minister, Yoav Gallant, in a surprise announcement that came as the country is embroiled in wars on multiple fronts across the region. Netanyahu and Gallant have repeatedly been at odds over the war in Gaza. But Netanyahu had avoided firing his rival. Netanyahu cited "significant gaps" and a "crisis of trust" between the men in his Tuesday evening announcement.

"In the midst of a war, more than ever, full trust is required between the prime minister and defense minister," Netanyahu said. "Unfortunately, although in the first months of the campaign there was such trust and there was very fruitful work, during the last months this trust cracked between me and the defense minister."

In the early days of the war, Israel's leadership presented a unified front as it responded to Hamas' Oct. 7,



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, center, speaks to Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, left, at the opening of the 25th Knesset session marking the anniversary of the "Iron Swords" war, in Jerusalem, Monday, Oct. 28, 2024.

2023, attack. But as the war dragged on and spread to Lebanon, key policy differences have emerged.

While Netanyahu has called for continued military pressure on Hamas, Gallant had taken a more pragmatic approach, saying that military force has

created the necessary conditions for a diplomatic deal that could bring home hostages held by the militant group.

Gallant, a former general who has gained public respect with a gruff, no-nonsense personality, said in a statement: "The security of

the state of Israel always was, and will always remain, my life's mission."

Gallant has worn a simple, black buttoned shirt throughout the war in a sign of sorrow over the Oct. 7 attack and developed a strong relationship with his U.S. counterpart, Defense

Secretary Lloyd Austin.

A previous attempt by Netanyahu to fire Gallant in March 2023 sparked widespread street protests against Netanyahu. He also flirted with the idea of dismissing Gallant over the summer but held off until Tuesday's announcement. Gallant will be replaced by Foreign Minister Israel Katz, a Netanyahu loyalist and veteran Cabinet minister who was a junior officer in the military.

Gideon Saar, a former Netanyahu rival who recently rejoined the government, will take the foreign affairs post.

Netanyahu has a long history of neutralizing his rivals. In his statement, he claimed he had made "many attempts" to bridge the gaps with Gallant.

"But they kept getting wider.

They also came to the knowledge of the public in an unacceptable way, and worse than that, they came to the knowledge of the enemy - our enemies enjoyed it and derived a lot of benefit from it," he said. □

Associated Press

UK introduces a bill that would eventually make the purchase of cigarettes illegal

LONDON (AP) — Legislation intended to ban today's British children from ever legally being able to smoke began its journey through Parliament on Tuesday.

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill would also bar smoking and vaping in some outdoor spaces such as playgrounds and the entrances to schools and hospitals. But a proposed ban on smoking in pub beer gardens has been dropped after opposition from bar owners.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting said the hospitality industry had "taken a real battering in recent years" and it is not "the right time" to ban smoking outside pubs.

The bill also proposes to restrict vape flavors and ban bright vape packaging aimed at children, to combat "a cynical industry that has sought to addict a new generation of children to nicotine," Streeting said.

It also continues a plan by the previous Conservative government, which was ousted in July's general election, to raise the minimum age for buying tobacco by one year each year, so that no one born after Jan. 1, 2009 will ever be able to buy cigarettes legally in Britain.

It is currently illegal to sell cigarettes, tobacco products or vapes to people under 18.

If passed — as is likely be-

cause of the governing Labour Party's large majority in Parliament the bill would give Britain some of the toughest anti-smoking measures in the world.

The government said the bill "breaks the cycle of addiction and paves the way for a smoke-free U.K."

The number of people who smoke in Britain has declined by two-thirds since the 1970s, but some 6.4 million people or about 13% of the population still smoke, according to official figures. Authorities say smoking causes some 80,000 deaths a year in the U.K. and remains the number one preventable cause of death, disability and poor health. □



A woman smokes on a street in London, on April 16, 2024.

Associated Press

Western officials suspect Russia was behind a plot to put incendiary packages on cargo planes

By VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Western security officials suspect Russian intelligence was behind a plot to put incendiary devices in packages on cargo planes headed to North America, including one that caught fire at a courier hub in Germany and another that ignited in a warehouse in England.

Poland said last month that it has arrested four people suspected to be linked to a foreign intelligence operation that carried out sabotage and is searching for two others. Lithuania's prosecutor general Nida Grunskiene said Tuesday there were an unspecified number of people detained in several countries, offering no elaboration.

The events come as Western officials say they are seeing an intensification of a hybrid war of sabotage by Russia targeting Ukraine's allies, including election disinformation and arson attacks in Europe this year.

Several officials said they believe the attacks were the work of Russian military intelligence, the GRU, although Moscow denied involvement.

Poland's Internal Security Agency, or ABW, says that



The logo of German freight company DHL is covered on a terminal at the airport Leipzig/Halle, Jan. 29, 2008.

Associated Press

incidents in Poland, as well as other EU and NATO members, had intensified this year. ABW believes they are initiated and coordinated by the Russian special services. So far, 20 people have been charged in investigations led by the prosecutor's office, the ABW and police.

Polish Prosecutor Katarzyna Calów-Jaszewska said the investigation focuses on foreign agents conducting acts of sabotage, including damaging industrial facilities or critical infrastructure

such as airports, airplanes and other vehicles, and as well as arson using self-combustible parcels sent to EU countries and the U.K. that would ignite during road or air transport.

She added that the group tested a channel for sending such parcels to the United States and Canada.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the details of the cargo plane incidents.

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration said it has put extra security measures

in place in recent months for certain cargo shipments heading to the United States. "We continually adjust our security posture as appropriate and promptly share any and all relevant information with our industry partners, to include requirements and recommendations that help them reduce risk," the TSA said.

Dirk Heinrichs, a spokesperson for DHL in Germany, said in an emailed statement to The Associated Press that the company could not provide

details about the matter but was "fully cooperating with the relevant authorities to protect our people, our network and our customers' shipments."

The head of Britain's domestic intelligence agency, MI5, said last month the U.K. is facing a "staggering rise" in attempts at assassination, sabotage and other crimes on its soil by Russia as well as Iran.

Calów-Jaszewska said Oct. 25 that parcels with camouflaged explosives were sent via cargo companies to EU countries and Britain to "test the transfer channel for such parcels" that were ultimately destined for the U.S. and Canada.

The incendiary devices in Germany and the U.K. both ignited in July.

One was at a stopover at a DHL logistics center at an airport in the city of Leipzig, according to Thomas Haldenwang, head of the German intelligence service.

The German news agency dpa reported that the connecting flight containing the package, which came from one of the Baltic nations, was delayed in Leipzig and was on the ground when it ignited and set fire to a freight container. □

Nigeria releases 29 children who potentially faced death penalty for alleged involvement in protests

By DYEPAZAH SHIBAYAN

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Ni-

gerian authorities released Tuesday 29 children who have been detained for



Children who had faced the death penalty for allegedly protesting against the country's cost of living crisis, are brought to a courtroom in Abuja, Nigeria Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

over two months and potentially faced the death penalty for their alleged participation in protests against the country's record cost-of-living crisis following growing calls for their release.

The children, aged 14 to 17, looked excited and full of life as they waved to cameras after their release at a court in the capital, Abuja, where they stood trial. It was a stark contrast to when they were first brought to the court looking malnourished and dressed shabbily, with some collapsing out of exhaustion.

They were among more than 70 people facing


charges of destruction of property, mutiny and treason, which carries the death penalty, after the August protests that shook the country and culminated in security operatives killing some demonstrators and arresting hundreds.

Ado Abdullahi, whose two sons were among the detained minors, said they never participated in the protests in their home state, Kano, and were running errands when they were arrested and taken to Abuja. "The police just came and took them," Abdullahi told The Associated Press as he waited for them to get home after their release.

Another parent Ikililu Sani said his son, Habibu, was at the time retrieving his motorcycle from a repair shop when he was arrested.

There had been no news of the children's detention until their arraignment, sparking outrage and renewing concerns over deteriorating human rights in Africa's most populous country.


Under rising pressure from activists, Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu ordered their release on Monday and ordered an investigation of law enforcement agents involved in the arrest and prosecution of the children. □



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Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been devel-

oped into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the downtown area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

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Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make “funchi hasa”

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is “funchi hasa” (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here’s how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.



Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate



is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN.

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say “Masha Danki” to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

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secutively visiting Aruba)
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The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Victor & Mrs. Patricia “Pat” from Staten Island, New York, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked

them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba’s weather
- Aruba’s people
- Aruba’s restaurants
- Aruba’s beaches
- The safety on the island

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the “One Happy Island”. □

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ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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Discover Infini: Celebrating Aruban Culinary Heritage Through Our Eight-Course Chef's Table Experience

At Infini, we take pride in offering a unique dining experience that goes beyond just a meal. Our eight-course chef's table menu is a journey through the rich and diverse flavours of Aruba, inspired by our island's culinary heritage and enhanced by locally-sourced ingredients. The highlight of our menu is the final course, Bolo Pretu and Wortel, a modern interpretation of a traditional Aruban dessert paired with carrots, walnut, cream cheese, and the famous black cake. This dish not only reflects our dedication to supporting local producers but also honours a longstanding tradition that holds deep significance in Aruban culture.

The story behind Bolo Pretu: Aruba's traditional black cake

The dish, Bolo Pretu, or black cake, is much more than a simple dessert. Deeply rooted in Aruban and Caribbean history, it is a symbol of celebration, served during weddings, anniversaries, and other special events. Its significance lies not only in its rich flavours but also in its connection to the island's cultural heritage, influenced by African, European, and indigenous traditions. At Infini, this historical importance



inspired the creation of our final course, bringing the past into the present through food.

The cultural significance of Bolo Pretu

Traditionally, Bolo Pretu has been a highlight at many of Aruba's significant ceremonies, from religious celebrations to family gatherings. It is often presented at weddings and anniversaries, symbolising prosperity, unity, and festivity. Its dark, rich texture and robust flavour come from a unique blend of ingredients, including fruits soaked in alcohol, which was originally a method of

preserving the cake for extended periods—sometimes even years. In colonial times, the cake was seen as a sign of wealth, reserved for those who could afford its laborious preparation and costly ingredients. Over the centuries, however, it has evolved into a beloved part of everyday Aruban culinary traditions. The recipe is often passed down through families, each generation adding its personal touch while keeping the core elements that make Bolo Pretu distinctive.

The ingredients that make Bolo Pretu unique

At the heart of Bolo Pretu is its complex combination of dried fruits, which are typically soaked for months in rum or cherry cordial. These include cherries, dates, figs, raisins, and prunes, along with an assortment of nuts, such as walnuts, to give the cake its signature dense and moist texture. The preparation process is intensive, requiring careful attention to detail and time to develop the cake's rich, intense flavours.

Once baked, the cake is soaked again in alcohol, further enhancing its depth and complexity. The result is a dessert that is meant to be

enjoyed in small portions due to its powerful taste and the high alcohol content. Each bite offers a journey through layers of flavour, from the sweetness of the dried fruit to the warmth of the rum.

A celebration of Aruba's culinary heritage at Infini

At Infini, our eight-course chef's table menu offers a true reflection of Aruba's diverse culinary heritage. The final course, Bolo Pretu and Wortel, is a tribute to the island's rich history, showcasing how food can transcend generations and bring people together. Through our dedication to using local ingredients and preserving traditional recipes, we create a dining experience that is as meaningful as it is delicious. For those looking to explore Aruba's culinary past and present in a single meal, Infini provides the perfect opportunity. Each course is crafted with care, and the story behind Bolo Pretu ensures that our guests leave with more than just a taste of the island—they leave with a deeper understanding of its cultural roots. To experience this unique blend of history and flavour, you can reserve a table at Infini by calling 297-699 39 82. □



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
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Native heritage story

Episode CCLXXVIII - 278

Etnia Nativa offers—in situ—a unique native experience opportunity that fuses education and entertainment, challenging you to interact with an exclusive team while accessing an interesting private property made with repurposed materials and guided step by step by its owner, a top cultural columnist, amateur archaeologist, and native artist who will immerse you in the navel of Aruba!

During this episode, Etnia Nativa shares one story of two women from Alto Vista. Many of our native stories were passed down from generation to generation; one of them is of Maria Largo and Mamanchi, who, according to our tradition, belong to the history of Alto Vista (see "Island Insight", chapter 136). "Maria Largo" means long or tall Mary, "and" Mamanchi—a loving nickname for mom—were mestizo Catholic people who would have belonged to the Silvester, Alvarez, and Tromp families' names from Noord. Although we cannot identify their Amerindian families, however, they mainly descended from Caquetian nobles of that time.

By the island standard of those days, Maria Largo was a smart woman. Owning a large farm and extended gracing land, she had many animals inherited from Castilians brought from the old world. Maria Largo also had liberated many slaves who were in charge of taking care of her horses, donkeys, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry. Maria's hundreds of goats, sheep, hoes, and some donkeys roamed free from Alto Vista to Westpunt and used to gather in an area known as Noord, around and close to the Alto Vista chapel. Here she had a rainwater-collecting reservoir made known as "Tanki di Maria Largo," supplying water to many in the vicinity.

Maria Largo lived in Alto Vista, but she owned many



houses elsewhere. The story goes that under each of those houses she built, she had buried a bar of gold as good luck superstitions. She was a person of great fortune, and everyone treated her with great respect. However rich maybe, she lived a very simple life in her own ways, so much that her everyday clothing was like that of any Native Aruban peasant, all white cotton trousers, a buttonless shirt called "cashaca," and a pair of "pargati" leather and fabric sandals, which were ideal for the unforgiving tropical heat. We know that one of the last places where Maria Largo lived was south of "Sero di Alto Vista," locally known as "Tinashi," a name that means "clay pot" or "the place of the clay pot."

The story goes that Maria Largo had a daughter known as "Mamanchi," and it is at this point where the story

gets a bit confused because for some people Mamanchi was Maria Largo's mother and for others Mamanchi was Maria Largo's daughter; however, Mamanchi was also known to own many animals, and until the 1960s there was a well-known plot of farmland called "Cunuco di Mamanchi," or Mamanchi's land, located in the vicinity of Curimiau-Turibana in the Noord area. Before she died, Mamanchi expressed her wish to be buried near Alto Vista, and so it was! Maria Largo and Mamanchi, who were well-known benefactors to the Catholic Church and Chapel, helped the poor and the sick of the island and liberated as many black and red slaves that she could by buying their freedom. She had spent time and gold in repairing and maintaining the chapel of Alto Vista. She was also well known in Curacao and on the mainland—actual Venezuela—in Coro's vicinity, where she had many families. Maria and Mamanchi were among the well-to-do natives who still had those noble souls devoted to others, and by doing so, they helped the island become a better place for the native Caquetio mestizo's.



If you like our native stories and you are interested in diving deeper into learning the true identity of Aruba, booking a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. We have been a trendsetting entity since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper shares our valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls to the bone. Appointments by: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 or etnianativa03@gmail.com

In connection with today's National Awareness Day for Freedom Fighter in the Dutch Kingdom Meet Aruba's biggest hero: Boy Ecury

(Oranjestad)—This past May 4th, Aruba as well as The Netherlands commemorated those who sadly perished during the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the frontline during this time.

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury. Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out.

During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.

After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion group that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance.



Boy's primary task as member of the group was to distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multiple sabotaging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military trucks and trains. The group also helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Be-

cause he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebellious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless. In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lannoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities.

Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the "Oranjehotel" prison in Scheveningen, The Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being given away by an ac-

quaintance, he himself never gave away the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: "I will die with a smile on my face."

On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old.

Ecury was buried with military honor. In 1949, the Aruban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem.

Boy's life motto was this: "In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor." □

Source: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

Honor our hero with us!

In connection to today's honoring of our local hero, there are several art and historical exposition that are available for the public to enjoy.

3 expositions dedicated to all resistance fighters within the Dutch Kingdom:

1. Location: Arubiana (National Library of Aruba), Bachstraat 5, Oranjestad.
Date of opening: October 30th, 2024
Time of availability: every week day from 18:00-20:00
2. Exposition "Libertad"
Location: The National Archeological Museum Aruba, Schelpstraat 2, Oranjestad.
Date of opening: November 5th, 2024
Time of availability: every week day, 19:30-21:00
3. Location: National Archive Aruba, Sabana Blanco 60, Oranjestad.
Date of opening: November 6th, 2024
Time of availability: every week day, 14:00-16:00

All expositions will be open to the public for an entire month. Visitors can also visit the Boy Ecury Plaza, located in front of the Linear Park near the Renaissance Market Place. □

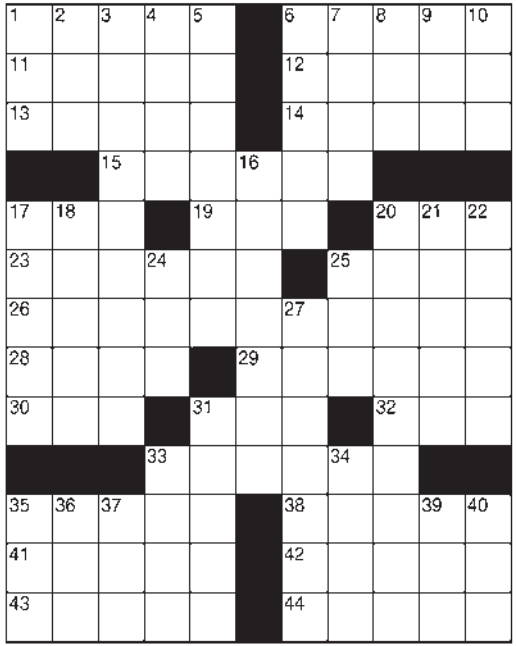


CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Reading aids
 - 6 Fleet-based
 - 11 Figure of speech
 - 12 Corundum, for one
 - 13 Polynesian nation
 - 14 Garden pests
 - 15 Fin type
 - 17 Constant complainer
 - 19 Quaker's pronoun
 - 20 Bowler, e.g.
 - 23 Slow tempo
 - 25 Skin opening
 - 26 Quadrennial event
 - 28 Pub pints
 - 29 Gift
 - 30 Capt.'s subordinates
 - 31 Turkish topper
 - 32 Methane, e.g.
 - 33 Movies
 - 35 Deck extra
 - 38 Eastern monks
 - 41 "Hello" singer
 - 42 Deceive
 - 43 Natural gifts
- DOWN**
- 1 Set afire
 - 2 Bustle
 - 3 Manipulation of a sort
 - 4 Possum of the comics
 - 5 Candy in a multi-colored roll
 - 6 "Forget it!"
 - 7 Skating jump
 - 8 Be a contender
 - 9 Throw in
 - 10 Trumpeter
 - 11 Elgart
 - 16 Abbreviate
 - 17 Said with a twang
 - 18 Minor no more
 - 20 Half of a team's schedule
 - 21 Concert spot
 - 22 Midterms, e.g.
 - 24 Baseball team VIPs
 - 25 Bud
 - 27 Long-horned grazer
 - 31 Cans
 - 33 Ireland native
 - 34 Hotel worker
 - 35 Boxing poke
 - 36 Exalted work
 - 37 Film-maker
 - 39 Ended a fast
 - 40 Musical note



Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-18 CRYPTOQUOTE

UFV JNKZUX YUXLK QVUX UFV
LCDLVNLMYL, GMZ UFV
LCDLVNLMYL YUXLK QVUX
UFV QUONKWM LKK.

— KGYWG IFNAVR

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: DO NOT IMPOSE ON OTHERS WHAT YOU YOURSELF DO NOT DESIRE. — CONFUCIUS

Cruise ship Schedule: November 03 - 10 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SUN	03	EMERALD PRINCESS FREEWINDS - DEPT.	09.00 ****	22.00 22.15	C E	1 -
MON	04	SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR	07.00	16.00	C	1
TUE	05	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA FREEWINDS	08.00 13.00 06.00	21.00 23.00 ****	B C E	1 1 1
THU	07	SILVER SHADOW	08.00	23.00	C	1
FRI	08	CARNIVAL MIRACLE	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	09	ROYAL CLIPPER AIDAPERLA	09.00 08.00	18.00 ****	B C	1 1
SUN	10	AIDAPERLA - Dept. FREEWINDS - DEPT.	**** ****	22.00 22.15	C E	- -

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

Climate change is making extreme downpours in Spain heavier and more likely, scientists say

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT
Associated Press

Human-caused climate change made Spain's rain-fall about 12% heavier and doubled the likelihood of a storm as intense as this week's deluge of Valencia, according to a rapid but partial analysis Thursday by World Weather Attribution, a group of international scientists who study global warming's role in extreme weather.

Monstrous flash floods in Spain claimed at least 158 lives, with 155 deaths confirmed in the eastern Valencia region alone. An unknown number of people are still missing and more victims could be found. Crews searched for bodies in stranded cars and sodden buildings Thursday. World Weather Attribution said climate change is the most likely explanation for extreme downpours in southern Spain, as a warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture, leading to heavier downpours. □

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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

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Oranjestad:

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San Nicolas:
Centro Medico:Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
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FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
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Many retailers offer 'returnless refunds.' Just don't expect them to talk much about it

By **HALELUYA HADERO**
AP Business Writer

It's one of the most under-publicized policies of some of the biggest U.S. retailers: sometimes they give customers full refunds and let them keep unwanted items too.

Returnless refunds are a tool that more retailers are using to keep online shoppers happy and to reduce shipping fees, processing time and other ballooning costs from returned products.

Companies such as Amazon, Walmart and Target have decided some items are not worth the cost or hassle of getting back. Think a \$20 T-shirt that might cost \$30 in shipping and handling to recover. There are also single-use items, such as a package of plastic straws, that might be difficult to resell or medicines that could be unsafe to market again.

Analysts say the companies offering returnless refunds do it somewhat sporadically, typically reserving the option for low-cost objects or ones with limited resale value. But some online shoppers said they've also been allowed to keep more pricey products.

Dalya Harel, 48, received a return-free refund recently after ordering a desk from Amazon that cost roughly \$300. When the desk arrived, she noticed it was missing some key pieces and would be impossible to put together, Harel said. She couldn't request a replacement and have it within a reasonable time for the office of her New York lice detection removal service because the item was out of stock.

Harel, who routinely buys towels and other products from Amazon for her business, said her team reached out to the company's customer service line. She was pleasantly surprised to hear she would get a refund without having to send back the desk. "That's one less headache to deal with," Harel said. "It was really nice for us to not



Shoppers hold bags after shopping in Bradenton, Fla., Feb. 9, 2024.

have to make an extra trip up to the post office."

She used the desk pieces to create makeshift shelves in her office in Brooklyn.

A mysterious process While the retail practice of letting customers keep merchandise and get their money back is not exactly a trade secret, the way it works is shrouded in mystery.

Companies are not keen to publicize the circumstances in which they issue returnless refunds due to concerns over the potential for return fraud.

Even if brands don't provide details about such policies on their websites, returnless refunds are expanding in at least some retail corners.

Amazon, which industry experts say has engaged in the practice for years, announced in August that it would extend the option to the third-party sellers who drive most of the sales on the e-commerce giant's platform. Under the program, sellers who use the company's fulfillment services in the U.S. could choose to offer customers a traditional refund for purchases under \$75 along with no obligation to return what they ordered.

Amazon did not immediately respond to questions about how the program

works. But publicly, it has pitched returnless refunds more directly to international sellers and those who offer cheaper goods. Items sold in an upcoming section of Amazon's website, which will allow U.S. shoppers to buy low-cost goods shipped directly from China, will also be eligible for returnless refunds, according to documents seen by The Associated Press.

In January, Walmart gave a similar option to merchants who sell products on its growing online marketplace, leaving it up to sellers to set price limits and determine if or how they want to participate.

China-founded e-commerce companies Shein and Temu say they also offer returnless refunds on a small number of orders, as does Target, the online shopping site Overstock and pet products e-tailer Chewy, which some customer said had encouraged them to donate unwanted items to local animal shelters.

Wayfair, another online retailer cited by some customers as offering returnless refunds, did not reply to a request for comment on its policies.

Deciding who is eligible - and when

Overall, retailers and brands tend to be careful

about how often they let customers keep items for free. Many of them are deploying algorithms to determine who should be given the option and who should not.

To make the decision, the algorithms assess multiple factors, including the extent to which a shopper should be trusted based on prior purchasing and returning patterns, shipping costs and the demand for the product in the customer's hands, according to Sender Shamiss, CEO of goTRG, a reverse logistics company that works with retailers like Walmart.

Optoro, a company that helps streamline returns for Best Buy, Staples and Gap Inc., has observed retailers assessing the lifetime value of a customer and extending returnless refunds as a type of unofficial, discreet loyalty benefit, according to CEO Amina Ali.

The king of online retail appeared to verify the process works that way.

In a statement, Amazon said it offers returnless refunds on a "very small number" of items as a "convenience to customers."

The company also said it's hearing positive feedback from sellers about its new program that authorized them to tell customers they could keep some products

and still be reimbursed. Amazon said it was monitoring for signs of fraud and setting eligibility criteria for sellers and customers. It didn't provide additional details on what that encompassed.

Online shopping and the cost of returns

Some retailers also are stiffening the liberal return policies they long employed to encourage online orders. Shoppers who enjoyed making purchases on their computers or cellphones became accustomed to loading up their digital shopping baskets with the intent of returning items they ended up not liking.

Shopping online also grew significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, when homebound consumers reduced their trips to stores and relied on sites like Amazon for everyday items. Retail companies have talked in recent years about returns becoming more expensive to process due to the growing volume, rising inflation and labor costs.

Last year, U.S. consumers returned \$743 billion worth of merchandise, or 14.5% of the products they purchased up from 10.6% in 2020, according to the National Retail Federation. In 2019, returned merchandise was valued at \$309 billion, according to loss prevention company Apriss Retail.

Last year, roughly 14% of returns were fraudulent, costing retailers \$101 billion in losses, according to a joint report from the National Retail Federation and Apriss Retail.

The problem spans from low-level forms of fraud such as shoppers returning already worn clothing to more complicated schemes by fraudsters who return shoplifted merchandise or items purchased on stolen credit cards.

To deter excessive returns, some retailers, including H&M, Zara and J. Crew, started charging customers return fees in the past year. Others have shortened their return windows. □

Alex Ovechkin is scoring and helping teammates and the Washington Capitals are off to a hot start

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)

— Alex Ovechkin approached linemates Dylan Strome and Aliaksei Protas after the second game of the Washington Capitals' season to do some film study.

The trio who had never before played together watched their shifts from that game, and Ovechkin thought they needed to be more predictable, hesitate less and find one another for passes quicker.

It worked, and the result has been a hot start for the Capitals and their 39-year-old captain who is approaching one of hockey's more unapproachable records faster than most expected. Ovechkin has five goals in his past four games to get on pace to catch and pass Wayne Gretzky for the NHL career goals mark before the end of the season and Washington has won eight of 11.

"We're connecting, playing for each other, and that's the most important thing," Ovechkin said Tuesday. "It doesn't matter if you're scoring goals or make an assist, you just



Carolina Hurricanes goaltender Pyotr Kochetkov (52) strips the puck from Washington Capitals' Alex Ovechkin (8) during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Raleigh, N.C., Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024.

Associated Press

have to do the same thing over and over again."

Ovechkin has done the same thing put the puck in the net better than everyone but Gretzky in the history of the sport. Seven goals this season have gotten him to 860, 35 back of breaking the record.

"It's fun to play with him, to just see his excitement every time he goes on the ice

and scores goals," Protas said. "You want to help him more with that, want to be with him and get the energy out of it because he's a phenomenal player, for sure. He's chasing something special right now, and for sure it's great to be with him and be a part of it."

Ovechkin taking it into his own hands by reviewing game tape with younger

teammates is something coach Spencer Carbery called "leadership 101." Protas said it has been very helpful, and it doesn't hurt that the advice came from a superstar with Ovechkin's resume.

"Any time when he speaks up about where we need to be offensively and how we can be better, obviously we're going to listen,"

said Strome, who is tied for fifth in the league with 13 assists and leads the Capitals in scoring with 17 points. "It's a good combination right now, so (we've) got to keep it rolling."

Ovechkin, who on Monday was named the NHL's first star of the week, did not score his seventh goal last season until his 34th game on Dec. 30. Asked what was different, he joked, "Strome find me and give me the puck."

Strome doesn't necessarily disagree. His philosophy when playing with Ovechkin is simple: "Get him the puck." "Got to play with your instincts. If your instincts are the guy that has 860 goals is open, you're probably going to want to pass the puck to him," Strome said. "He's making great plays, too. That's the thing: It's not just his goals. I think his assists are up, too, and he's making really good passes and we're finding a way to connect."

Ovechkin has seven assists. Last month, he joined Gretzky, Gordie Howe, Jaromir Jagr, Marcel Dionne and Phil Esposito as the only players with 700 goals and 700 assists. □

Novak Djokovic withdraws from the ATP Finals. First time in 23 years without a member of the Big 3

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Novak Djokovic won't defend his ATP Finals title after ruling himself out Tuesday citing an injury, leaving the season-ending event without a member of the Big Three of men's tennis for the first time in 23 years.

"I was really looking forward to being there, but due to ongoing injury I won't be playing next week," Djokovic wrote on social media, without specifying what the problem is. "Apologies to those who were planning to see me." The eight-man tournament begins Sunday in Turin, Italy. Djokovic has won the ATP Finals a record seven times. He beat current No. 1 Jan-

nik Sinner for the title last year. Roger Federer, who announced his retirement in 2022, won the event six times after making his debut in 2002; Rafael Nadal, who is retiring after playing in the Davis Cup this month, was the runner-up twice at the ATP Finals but never won it.

Not since 2001 has the tournament been held without at least one of Djokovic, Federer or Nadal. This season also was the first since 2002 without at least one Grand Slam title for a member of that trio.

Djokovic finishes the year with a 37-9 record but only one tournament championship: his first Olympic gold

medal, which came at the Paris Games in August. That was his 99th tour-level title. Djokovic did not add to his men's-record 24 Grand Slam trophies in 2024 and dealt with a torn meniscus in his right knee that required surgery and forced him to withdraw from the French Open before the quarterfinals. After bowing out of the U.S. Open in the third round, he played one Davis Cup match and then reached the final of the Shanghai Masters last month, losing to Sinner. He withdrew from the Paris Masters.

Joining Sinner in Turin will be Alexander Zverev, Carlos Alcaraz, Daniil Medvedev,

Taylor Fritz, Casper Ruud, Alex de Minaur and Andrey Rublev.

"Wishing all the players a great tournament," Djokovic said. "See you soon!" □



Novak Djokovic of Serbia looks on after losing the men's singles finals match to Jannik Sinner of Italy for the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024.

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NFL trade deadline: Commanders acquire Lattimore; Lions get Za'Darius Smith; Steelers add Williams

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Sports Writer

The NFC East-leading Washington Commanders made a move to help them stay in first place. The Detroit Lions got their edge rusher. The injury-plagued Dallas Cowboys as well as the Pittsburgh Steelers added receivers.

Hours before the NFL's trade deadline at 4 p.m. EST on Tuesday, the Commanders (7-2) got four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Marshon Lattimore from the struggling Saints (2-7), three people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams have not announced the deal.

Lattimore bolsters a defense that's already No. 5 against the pass. The Saints are getting a third-round pick, a fourth-rounder and their own sixth that they previously sent to Washington. The Commanders also receive a fifth along with Lattimore.



Cleveland Browns defensive end Za'Darius Smith (99) sacks Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) during the second half of an NFL football game in Cleveland, Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024.
Associated Press

The NFC North-leading Lions (7-1) kicked off deadline day by acquiring defensive end Za'Darius Smith from the Cleveland Browns. The three-time Pro Bowl edge rusher helps fill the void created by the loss of

star Aidan Hutchinson, who suffered a leg injury.

The 2-7 Browns, already looking to rebuild in a disappointing season, are sending Smith and a seventh-round pick in 2026 to Detroit for a fifth-round pick

in 2025 and a sixth-round pick in 2026.

The Steelers (6-2) got wide receiver Mike Williams from the New York Jets for a fifth-round pick in next year's draft, a person familiar with the deal told The Associ-

ated Press. Williams, who signed with New York in the offseason as a free agent, had 12 catches for 166 yards in nine games with the Jets.

He goes from catching passes from Aaron Rodgers to playing with Russell Wilson. The Steelers have been seeking a wide receiver since the offseason. The Cowboys (3-5) agreed on a deal with Carolina (2-7) to acquire wide receiver Jonathan Mingo and a seventh-round pick in 2025 for a fourth-round pick next year, two people with knowledge of the trade told the AP. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams haven't announced the deal.

Mingo, a second-round pick last year, only has 12 receptions for 121 yards in nine games. He won't be catching passes from Dak Prescott for a while. Prescott is expected to miss several games with a hamstring injury. □

Jason Kelce apologizes for cellphone incident at Ohio State-Penn State before Bucs-Chiefs game

By **DAVE SKRETTA**
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Retired Eagles center Jason Kelce apologized during ESPN's pregame show Monday night after grabbing the phone of an unruly fan and spiking it to the ground before the Ohio State-Penn State game last weekend.

"In a heated moment, I decided to greet hate with hate," Kelce said before ESPN's broadcast of the Buccaneers-Chiefs game featuring his brother, Kansas

City tight end Travis Kelce. "I fell short this week."

Jason Kelce was attending the Big Ten matchup between the Buckeyes and Nittany Lions in State College, Pennsylvania, on Saturday when the incident occurred. Video on social media showed him walking through a crowd near Beaver Stadium and fans asking for photos and fist bumps when one fan began to heckle him and appeared to shout an anti-gay slur directed toward his brother for dating Taylor

Swift. At that point, Kelce grabbed the fan's phone and threw it to the ground, then turned to confront the man dressed in Penn State attire. Kelce appeared to use the same anti-gay slur during the exchange before another fan stepped between them before the altercation could escalate. "I think everybody has seen on social media what happened this week," Kelce said on the ESPN broadcast. "Listen, I'm not happy with anything that took place. I'm not proud of

it. In a heated moment I chose to greet hate with hate and I just don't think that's a productive thing, I really don't. I don't think it leads to discourse and it's the right way to go about things. In that moment I fell down to a level that I shouldn't have.

"The bottom line is, I try to live my life by the golden rule, that's what I've always been taught," he said. "I try to treat people with common decency and respect, and I'm going to keep doing that moving forward." □



Former Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce prepares for his ESPN debut as a Monday Night Football Analyst before an NFL football game between the Buffalo Bills and the New York Jets, Oct. 14, 2024 in East Rutherford, N.J.
Associated Press